



Environmental Fact Sheet

WOOD SURFACE PROTECTION WASTES PROPOSED AS HAZARDOUS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed to list as "hazardous" certain wastes from wood surface protection operations that use protectant containing a concentration of pentachlorophenolate greater than 0.1 parts per million (ppm). EPA is requesting public comment on the proposal.

Background

Freshly cut lumber is often treated with a surface protectant in order to temporarily prevent sapstain. Some protectant formulations used in the lumber industry contain chlorophenolic chemicals. These particular formulations and the wastes generated by their use in the surface protection of lumber contain dioxin and furan impurities. In the past, chlorophenolic formulations were used quite extensively to protect lumber. In January 1992, production of chlorophenolics ceased and current use is diminishing.

The 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments require EPA to determine whether to designate, or "list," these and other wastes as hazardous, thereby subjecting them to the waste management regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Action

EPA has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to list as hazardous those wastes from wood surface protection operations whose protectant formulations have a concentration of pentachlorophenolate greater than 0.1 ppm. This proposed listing includes wastes from plants that presently use non-chlorophenolic formulations, but whose formulations have been contaminated by previous chlorophenolic use.



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